

Remarks

Claim 27 is pending in the present application. Claim 27 has been amended.

Claim 26 has been cancelled.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgement of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in parent application Serial No. 10/073,022.

Drawings

Applicant notes the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings filed along with the application on March 4, 2004.

Claim Rejection-35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Kogure et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,144).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully notes the Examiner's acknowledgement that claim 27 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but will be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 26 has been amended to substantively include the features of base claim 26, to advance prosecution of this application. Claim 26 has been canceled. The

Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge that claim 26 is allowed for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claim of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

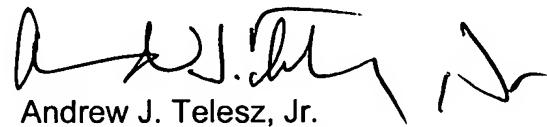
In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of one (1) month to September 30, 2005, for the period in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$120.00 should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

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